

## FLASH FLOOD INFORMATION AND SAFETY RULES

### WHAT IS A FLASH FLOOD?

A torrent of water rushing through normally dry or low-flow creeks, streams, rivers, washes, ravines, culverts, or over lower lying ground.

### WHEN AND WHERE DO FLASH FLOODS OCCUR?

Any time heavy rainfall or rapidly melting snow fills natural or man-made drainage systems to overflowing. In desert areas, flash floods occur mainly in the mountainous areas, but the raging torrent may move for miles into relatively flat terrain. The violent rushing of water collects debris and mud and becomes destructive to everything in its path.

### FLASH FLOOD WATCH

A statement issued by the National Weather Service that a storm or flood of significant magnitude is likely to occur. Precautionary measures should be taken.

- Listen to radio or television for current information for your area.
- Watch for distant "thunderheads," the likely source of flash floods.
- On the road, look for flooding in highway dips, bridges and low areas.

### FLASH FLOOD WARNING

A statement issued by the National Weather Service that flash flooding has occurred or is imminent. Immediate protective measures must be taken.

- Listen to radio or television for current information.
- If you are "down hill" from thunderstorm activity, be prepared to stop on high ground near highway dips.
- Cloud build-up is difficult to see at night, but lightning flashes provide an indication of thunderstorm activity. Watch for them.
- Water-filled highway dips are difficult to see at night. Slow down.
- If your car stalls in a dip, abandon it and move to high ground. Later walls of water may engulf it. Turn on emergency flashers and do not return to the car until water has receded for at least one hour and skies have cleared.

### GENERAL FLASH FLOOD SAFETY RULES

Do not camp or park in dry streambeds or washes.

When planning a trip into areas where flash floods are possible, inform someone of your itinerary and expected time of return. Stick with your plan, and check in when you return.

Carry a portable radio or use the car radio to keep alert to weather conditions.

Never cross a water-filled highway dip until making sure of water depth and road condition. The roadway may be washed out.

If your car is damaged or stalled, stay near it on high ground. Search and rescue parties will locate a vehicle more quickly than a person.